

I believe the time is right to drop all requirements for Morse code testing for all Amateur licenses. Generalize all the licenses into one pool of Amateur Radio Operators; much like was done in 1984 with the General Radiotelephone Operators License. There are clear reasons for some of the additional endorsements for General Radiotelephone Operators License, these differences don't exist in Amateur Radio, and it is supposed to be a hobby!

While CW remains a valid mode for the transmission of information, there are clearly many other modes that are of interest. The requirement for CW only serves to block very capable Amateur's from enjoying the other bands that are currently reserved for the privileged classes of Morse code trained operators. I for one have limited my interests to the 50 MHz and above for this reason. I don't need to learn Morse code for the same reason I don't need to learn Russian, French or German. While all these forms of communication are valuable, I should be able to enjoy the privileges of all the bands without overzealous requirements.

After reading all the currently filed comments, it is clear that some see the benefits of eliminating the CW requirement. While others are clearly out to protect their privileged bands and don't want the competition getting in there way. Seems to me that it would actually be better for Amateur Radio to allow everyone access to all the bands. For one, most enforcement issues are brought to the commission by Amateurs trying to protect the bands. So with that, wouldn't it be better to have every licensed operator policing all the bands and at the same time eliminate the current division that runs right down the middle of Amateur Radio in the United States. The other is there is strength in being united, Amateur radio is clearly not united together and seeking the same goals.

Finally, the United States is a leader of the free world, some of the proposals would have us lag behind the rest of the world and retain the CW requirement. This might make sense if the transmissions were limited to the boundaries of the United States, but that is clearly not the case. Many countries have already dropped the requirement for CW testing; these new operators will be utilizing privileges afforded by their countries. Where will that leave us?

Thanks,
Jim Stark